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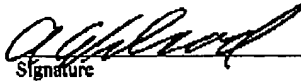
IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of:)	Confirmation No. 6559
)	
Craig Richard Gerbi et al.)	Group Art Unit: 3731
)	
Applic. Serial No.: 10/624,848)	
)	
Filed: 07/21/2003)	Examiner: Pous, Natalie R.
)	
For: TOOL GUIDE AND METHOD FOR)	
INTRODUCING AN END EFFECTOR)	
TO A SURGICAL SITE IN)	
MINIMALLY INVASIVE SURGERY)	
_____)	Sunnyvale, California

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PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Sir:

This communication responds to the Advisory Action of July 10, 2006 (the "Advisory Action") and the Final Office Action of April 27, 2006 (the "Final Office Action"), and is being filed with a Request for Continued Examination and a 5-month Petition of Extension.

Listing of Claims begin on page 2 of this paper.

Remarks/Arguments begin on page 4 of this paper.

Applic. Serial No.: 10/624,848

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Atty. Docket No.: 017516-006810US